白の雪国物語 第四十回
原作：白沢成友　漫画：不二まーゆ

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カチャ

EXCUSE ME.
RIEDE.
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU LEAVE FOR A BIT?
YES, SIR.
...

THIS IS RELATED TO THAT...
WE'RE PREPARING TO SEE HIS HIGHNESS OFF WHEN HE LEAVES FOR WILMAGS IN A FEW HOURS.
LAST NIGHT...
HIS HIGHNESS ACTUALLY MADE A REQUEST
... YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME.

IT SEEMS THE ROYAL GUARD NEEDS NEW MEMBERS.
GO AND FOLLOW HIS HIGHNESS.
YES.
YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED, HAVEN'T YOU?

THANK YOU SO MUCH.
THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY. HE'D BE SADDENED AS WELL.
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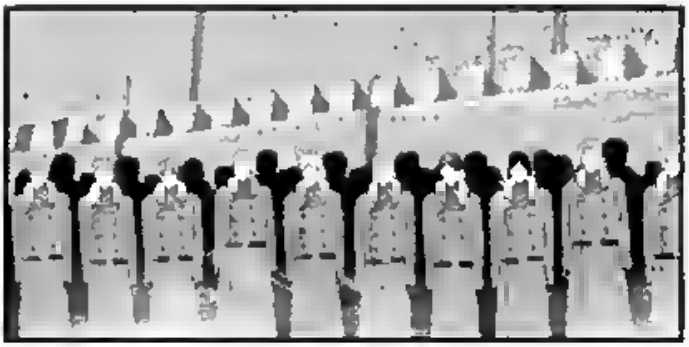
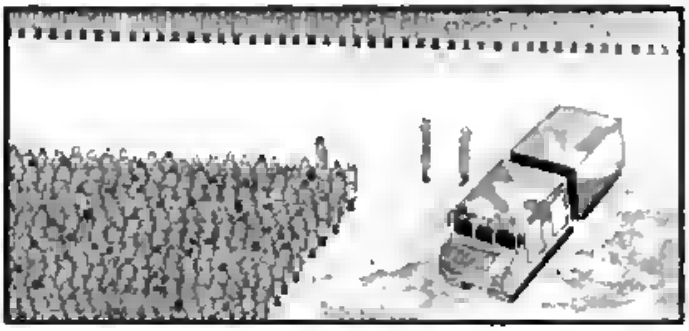
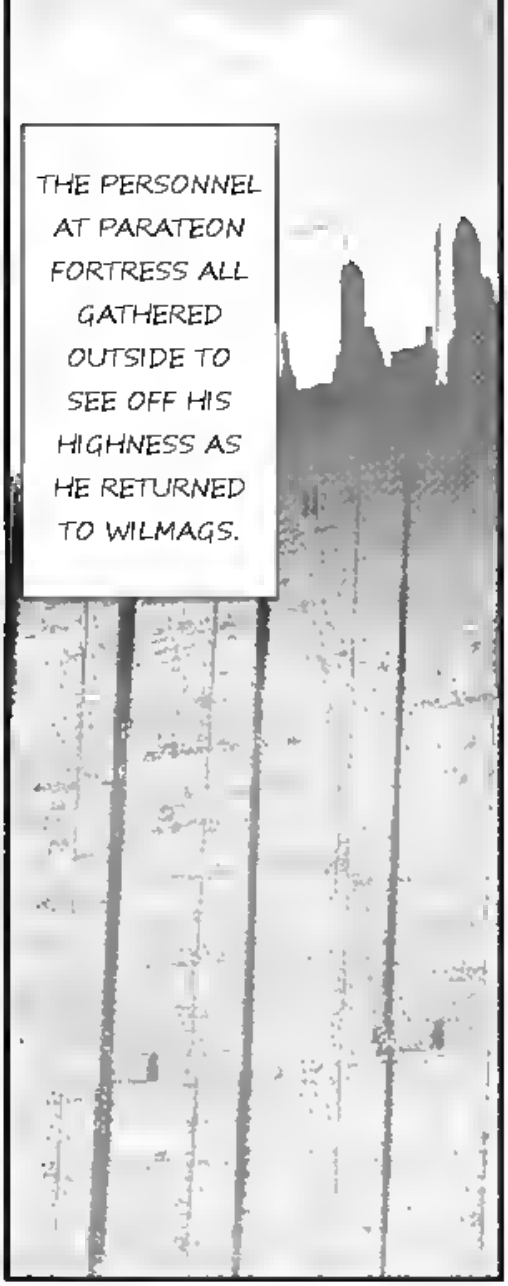
UNTIL HIS HIGHNESS (THAT THIEF) RETURNS TO THE CAPITAL,
WORK HARD HERE.



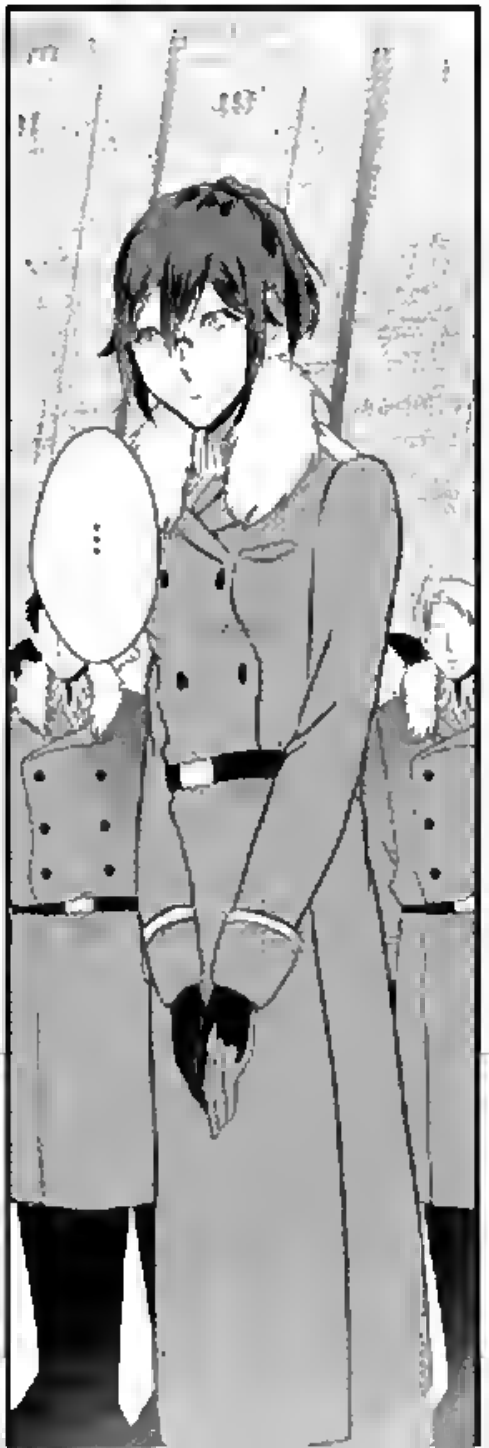



THE PERSONNEL AT PARATEON FORTRESS ALL GATHERED OUTSIDE TO SEE OFF HIS HIGHNESS AS HE RETURNED TO WILMAGS.

THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME OFF.

I SUPPOSE THE NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL BE WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR TRIUMPHAL RETURN TO THE CAPITAL.
MOST LIKELY.

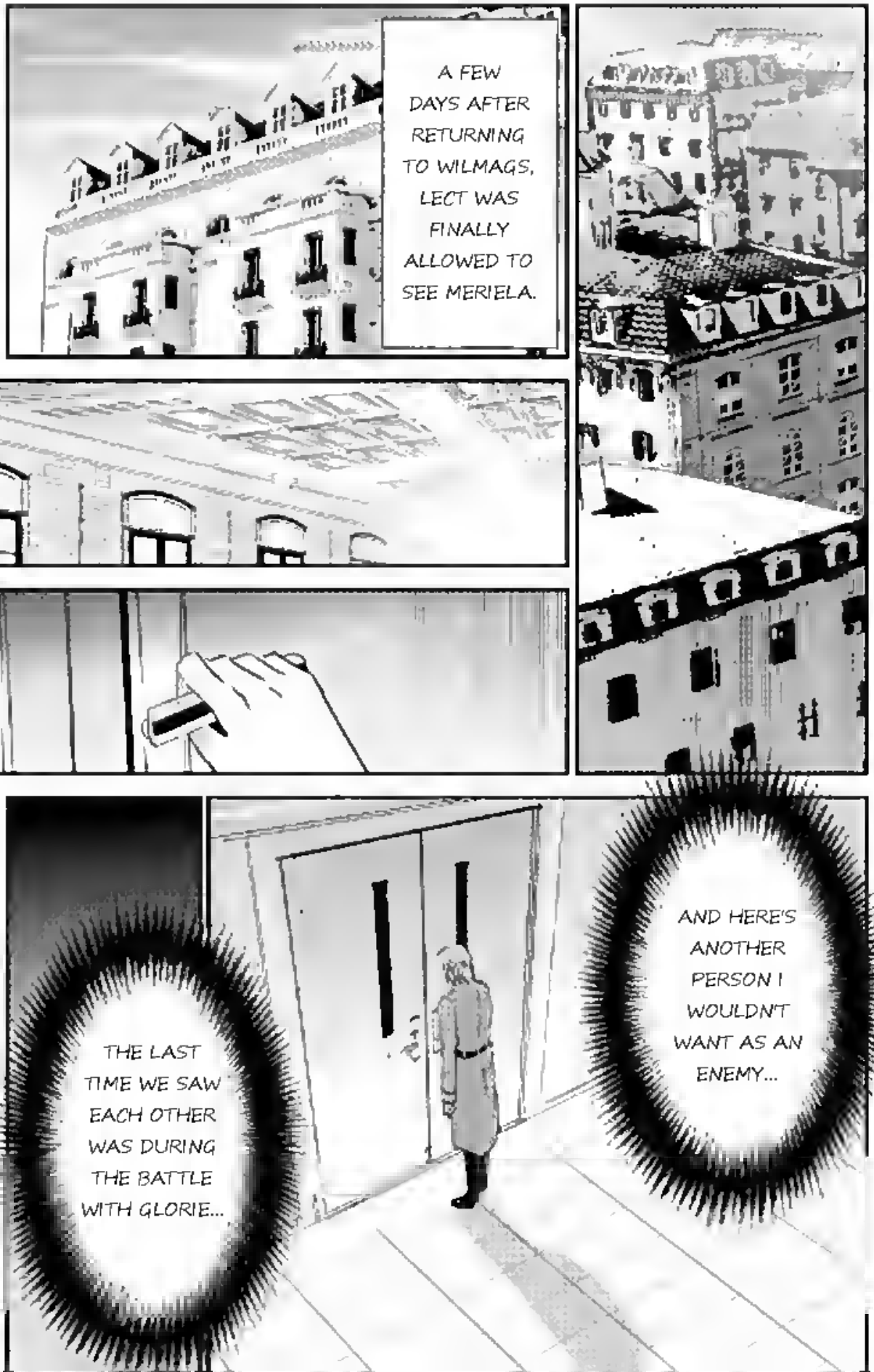
IN THAT CASE,


...

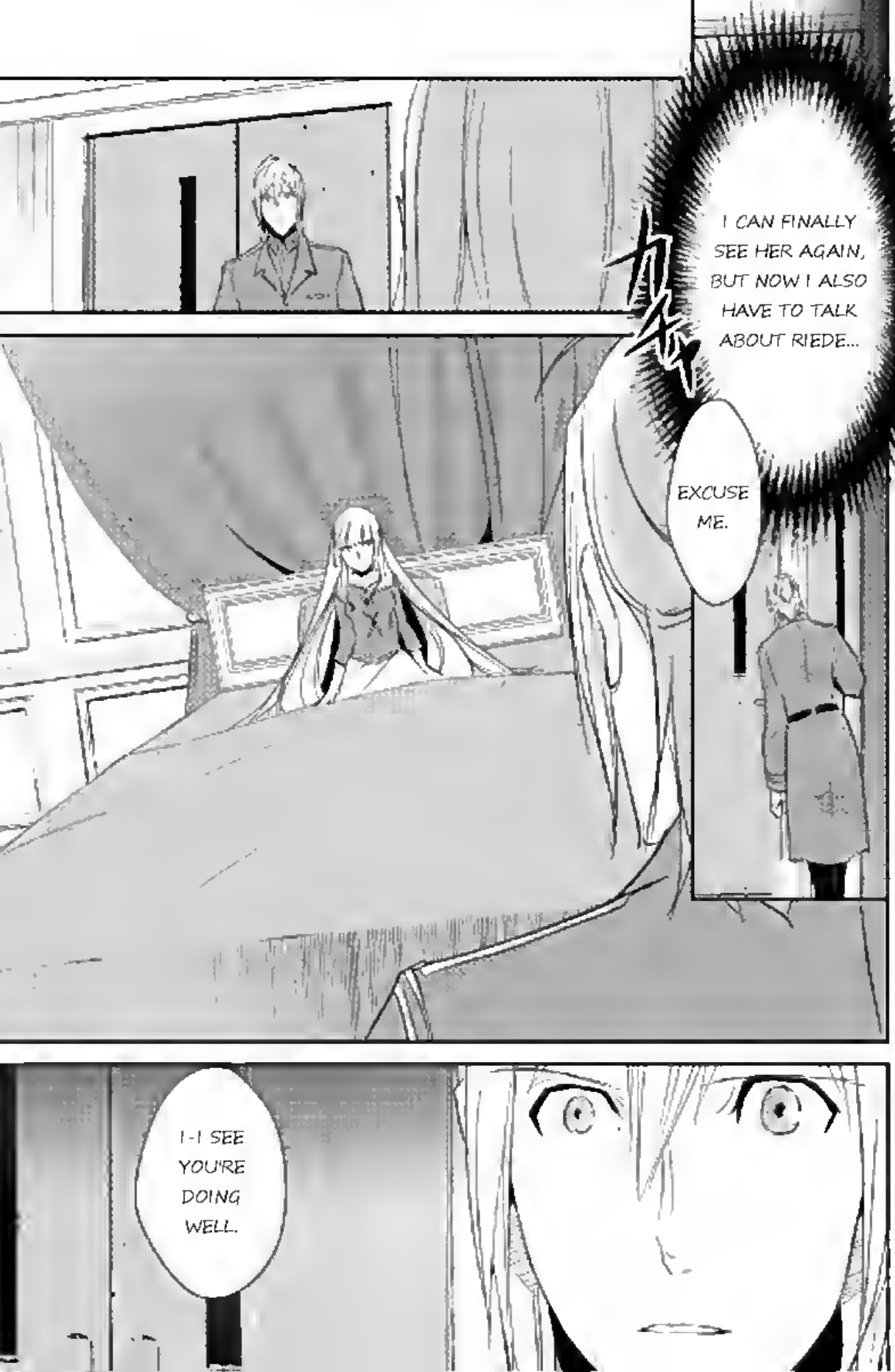
!
IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP HER HERE FOR A BIT LONGER...
I'LL NEED TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR HER.
I HOPE THAT YOU KEEP HER BY YOUR SIDE IN THE ROYAL GUARD, YOUR HIGHNESS.
SHE'S STILL NOT QUITE READY TO BE SENT OFF AS JUST A GIRL...

SURE, THAT'S FINE...
DON'T TELL ME
HE KNOWS ABOUT LAST NIGHT...
ニヤリ…
YOU HELPED HER MATURE A BIT MORE LAST NIGHT,
SO I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU YOUR HIGHNESS
HE KNOWS EVERYTHING!
YOUR HIGHNESS,
OH, RIGHT.
YOUR HIGH-NESS.

THAT GIRL IS THE ORPHANED CHILD OF MY CLOSE FRIEND, SO I'M SAYING THIS OUT OF SOMETHING SIMILAR TO PARENTAL LOVE.
I'M SURE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SUBORDINATES IN WILMAGS, SO HURRY THERE AND TAKE CARE OF THEM.
... I'LL DO JUST THAT.
TAKE CARE!
HIS WORDS CAN GO RIGHT THROUGH EVEN ME...
HE'S DEFINITELY NOT SOMEONE I'D WANT AS AN ENEMY...


A FEW DAYS AFTER RETURNING TO WILMAGS, LECT WAS FINALLY ALLOWED TO SEE MERIELA.
THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER WAS DURING THE BATTLE WITH GLORIE...
AND HERE'S ANOTHER PERSON I WOULDN'T WANT AS AN ENEMY...

HAVE ALL HER WOUNDS HEALED?
LIKE THAT SERIOUS WOUND...
THE FACT THAT I NEVER GOT A REPLY TO THE LETTERS AND FLOWERS I SENT
MEANS THAT THE MENTAL TRAUMA WAS JUST AS SERIOUS...
I WAS UNABLE TO SEE HER ALL THIS TIME BECAUSE OF HOW SERIOUS IT WAS.


I CAN FINALLY SEE HER AGAIN, BUT NOW I ALSO HAVE TO TALK ABOUT RIEDE...
カチャ
EXCUSE ME.
I-I SEE YOU'RE DOING WELL.

THANKS TO YOU. I'VE TAKEN QUITE A BIT OF TIME OFF.
IT'S A RELIEF THAT SHE HASN'T CHANGED MUCH.
REALLY?
OF COURSE.
OH, IT'S LECT!

AAAH!
?
YOU'RE THE MAN FROM BACK THEN!
?
FERIEL, DID YOU NOT TELL HER ABOUT ME?
WHAT?! YOU KNEW THAT HE WAS THE REGENT AND DIDN'T TELL ME?!
YEP, I KEPT IT SECRET.
SINCE YOU WERE GONNA MEET ANYWAYS, I FIGURED YOU COULD INTRODUCE YOURSELVES.

SHE WAS QUITE INTERESTED IN YOU AND THOUGHT YOU WERE A NOBLE OR THE CHILD OF ONE AND TRIED SEARCHING FOR YOU.
HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
IF YOU WERE A GOOD MAN, SHE INTENDED TO MA-
HUH? WEREN'T YOU SEARCHING FOR HIM BECAUSE YOU'D RATHER MARRY THAT MAN THAN SOME RANDOM REGENT?
THAT'S NOT IT! I WAS JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO YOU WERE SINCE I HADN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE!

SIS!
YOU TWO GET ALONG RATHER WELL.
NICE TO MEET YOU, FARIEL, I HOPE WE GET A-
LECT,
WHO DID YOU COME HERE TO VISIT?
AH...

OH NO...
...
OKAY.
SIT.
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU CAME TO SEE ME, I TRULY AM.
...
WHAT A GLARE...
... YES.

DRAGON GIRLS HAVE A TERRIFYING AURA...
IT'S FINE,
I KNOW THOSE TWO AND WE'LL BE INTERACTING OFTEN IN THE FUTURE AS WELL.
IT'S JUST THAT
.....

IF YOU CAME HERE TO VISIT ME, YOU SHOULDN'T-
HOLD ON.
...!?
.....?
WHAT IS THAT SMELL?

AH!
SURELY AFTER THAT MUCH TIME, EVEN A DRAGON WOULDN'T...
THE WHOLE THING WITH RIEDE WAS A FEW DAYS AGO,
LECT...
YES?
THIS IS BAD!

WHO'S THE WOMAN YOU WERE WITH?
A WOMAN.
YEAH, THAT'S A WOMAN'S SCENT.
AAH!